EXHIBIT 17 DATE 3/26/09 SB 406

26 March 2009

RE: SB 406

To the Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

The purpose of my testimony today is to let the Committee know why I strongly oppose SB 406, a bill for an act entitled, Constitutionally define person. As a young woman in the state of Montana, I feel secure knowing that the State has an interest in protecting my right to privacy, as established under *Roe v. Wade*. This bill attempts to undermine that right by defining an embryo, from the moment of conception, as a person, effectively granting the embryo or fetus a full spectrum of constitutional rights. Such a bill, if enacted into law, would woefully jeopardize the health of Montana's women. Please do not hurt women in Montana, and please do not support SB 406.

Thank you,

Jennifer Gross Billings, MT